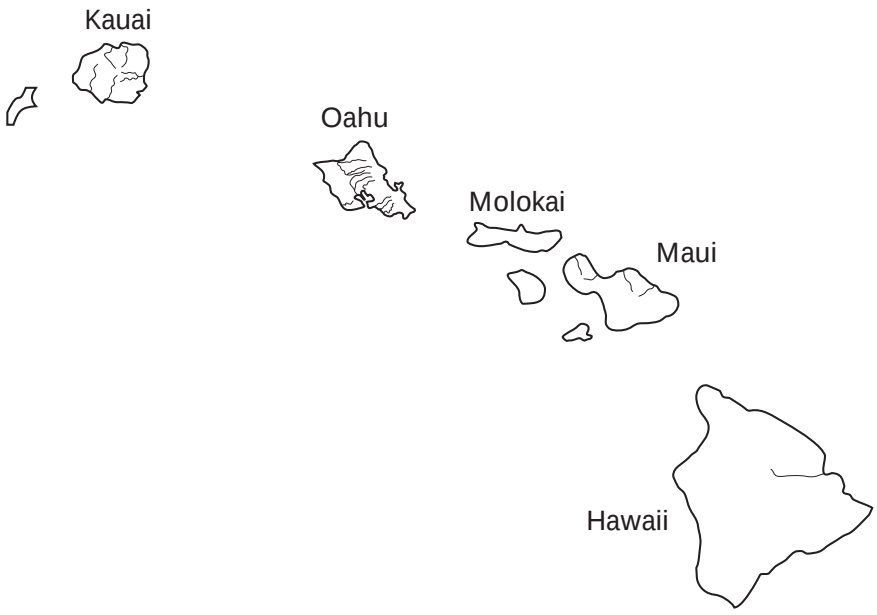
Hawaii



— Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the Hawaii 1996 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Most of Hawaii's waterbodies have variable water quality due to stormwater runoff. During dry weather, most streams and estuaries have good water quality that fully supports beneficial uses, but the quality declines when stormwater runoff carries pollutants into surface waters. The most significant pollution problems in Hawaii are siltation and turbidity, nutrients, fertilizers, toxics, pathogens, and pH from nonpoint sources, including agriculture and urban runoff. Introduced species and stream alteration are other stressors of concern. Very few point sources discharge into Hawaii's streams; most industrial facilities and wastewater treatment plants discharge into coastal waters. Other concerns include explosive algae growth in West Maui and Kahului Bay, a fish consumption advisory for lead in talipia caught in Manoa Stream, and sediment contamination from discontinued wastewater discharges at Wailoa Pond and Hilo Bay.

Ground Water Quality

Compared to mainland States, Hawaii has very few ground water problems due to a long history of land use controls for ground water protection. Prior to 1961, the State designated watershed reserves to protect the purity of rainfall recharging ground water. The Underground Injection Control Program also prohibits wastewater injection in areas surrounded by "no-pass" lines. However, aquifers outside of reserves and no-pass lines may be impacted by injection wells, household wastewater disposal systems, such as seepage pits and cesspools, landfills, leaking underground storage tanks, and agricultural return flows.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

County governments are required to set erosion control standards for various types of soil and land uses. These standards include

criteria, techniques, and methods for controlling sediment erosion from land-disturbing activities. The State would like to enact ordinances that require the rating of pesticides on their potential to migrate through soil into ground water. The State would regulate the use of pesticides that pose a threat to ground water. Until more stringent ordinances can be enacted, the State recommends using alternatives to pesticides, such as natural predators and other biological controls. The State also encourages the use of low-toxicity, degradable chemicals for home gardens, landscaping, and golf courses.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

Hawaii has scaled back its water quality monitoring program because of budgetary constraints. The State has halted toxics monitoring, fish tissue contamination monitoring, and biological monitoring and eliminated sampling at numerous fixed monitoring stations. The State also reduced the frequency of bacterial monitoring at coastal beaches. In a proposed monitoring strategy (in progress), the State will revise its water quality monitoring plan in order to utilize the limited resources more efficiently and to refocus on waterbody-specific needs.

Summary of Use Support[a] in Hawaii

		Percent		
		Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Impaired (For One or More Uses)
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 249)[b]	Total Miles Surveyed			
	32	0	0	100
Lakes (Total Acres = 2,168)	Total Acres Surveyed			
	-	-	-	-
Estuaries (Total Square Miles = 380)	Total Square Miles Surveyed			
	76	36	1	63
Oceans (Total Miles = 1,052)	Total Shoreline Miles Surveyed			
	943	88	2	10

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

[a] Summary use support data from 1994 are presented because Hawaii did not report these data to EPA in 1996. The State reports there is no basis to believe that water quality has changed substantially from 1994 to 1996.

[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.